REMARKS

Claim 1 as incorporates the subject matter of claims 2, 3, 5 and 6.

This amended claim 1 now states that the parameter used to decrement automatically the credit allocated to the user is the number of edited matrix codes, that the computer includes means for taking into account the using up of the credit contained in the memory of the electronic circuit and that the memory contains identification information of the authorized user said identification information being inserted in the edited matrixes on the documents.

These provisions both:

- Improve the control of the use of the method by authorized operators using their own computer: due to the fact that the identification information is inserted in the edited matrix i.e. on the document sent to the addresses, it is possible by reading the matrix present on the document to verify that the process is used by an authorized operator.

- Increase the security of the exchange of information between the transmitter and the addresses (the presence of the identification information on the document in a coded form validates the response received by the transmitter: the computer coupled to the electronic circuit can check that the identification information present in the document in good or not).

More particularly the coding of the identification data of the transmitting entity of the documents, which is only able to be decrypted by the supplier of the software, is able to provide a control so as to know if the documents in circulation have been edited by an unauthorized entity and constitute pirating editing (see in the specification text on page 3 lines 7 to 20). It should be also emphasized on the fact that the encoding function including the coding of the identification information of each addresse in association with the identification data of the documents intended for them.

- Facilitate the payment and the control of this payment in relation to the extent of the usage by documenting the credit contained in the memory of the electronic circuit for each edited matrix code.

More particularly when the data relating to the matrix code is validated by the user, the system generates a matrix code and checks and updates the credit allocated to the user by decrementing its amount to each generated code and by again checking that nothing opposes this generation (see on page 9 lines 8 to 14).

All the characteristics included in the claimed combination cooperates there between so as to obtain the above mentioned results and the above mentioned functions of control, security and payment cannot be separated from the global processing but in contrast are integrated therein.

For this reason the combination claimed in the newly amended claim 1 as well as the depending claims 4 and 7 to 19 cannot be considered as obvious for one skilled on the act.

In this respect it will be referred to the Examiner's statement on the last paragraph of pages 2, first paragraph of page 3 and last paragraph of this page 3, which reveal the characteristics as of the previous claim 1 which are considered as novel with respect to Wolf and Hidding. The combination of these characteristics with the newly added characteristics so as to obtain the above results confers to the new claim 1 the required inventiveness.

For this reason the claimed combination cannot be considered as obvious for a skilled on the art (there is no teaching in the prior art of the use of a matrix code printed on documents in combination with an electronic circuit connected to a user computer so as to implement the claimed method and to obtain the above mentioned results).

In view of the amended claims and remarks set forth above, it is firmly believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respecfully submitted,

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